

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
March 20, 2008

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Thursday, March 20, 2008 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Craig J. Bobay, David C. Chapleau, Mary Margaret Lloyd, Karen M. Love, Roderick D. McGillivray, Nanette K. Raduenz, Frederick A. Schurger, Debbie J. Shook, Dean A. Young and William C. Fee, Chair, were present.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Guests present. Amber Njau, Business Analyst, Child Support Bureau and Vivek Jain, Project Manager, Deloitte Consulting for Child Support Bureau; Bob Monday, Indiana State Coordinator, Children's Rights Council, and Andrew J. Soshnick, Chair, Family Law Section, Indiana State Bar Association; and Loretta Oleksy, Family Court Project Manager, Division of State Court Administration was also present.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the February 15, 2008 meeting were approved.
5. Presentation by Dr. Jane Venohr. Dr. Jane Venohr, Center for Policy Research, reviewed the economic basis of Indiana's Child Support Guidelines with members of the committee. She distributed materials comparing Indiana's guidelines with Rothbarth and Engel estimates of costs of raising children. She also distributed proposed federal rules on establishing medical support for Title IV-D child support cases, 71 Fed. Register 182 pgs. 54965-54974, dated September 20, 2006. She indicated Indiana's Guidelines were high at extremely low incomes and too low at high incomes. She discussed the need for a study to review whether lower child support amounts at very low income levels increases monies paid for child support. Dr. Venohr agreed to return to review various questions posed by members of the committee and guests.
6. Indiana Child Support Enforcement Conference. Judge Fee and Jeffrey Bercovitz reported they would be speaking at the Indiana Child Support Enforcement Conference on Indiana's Child Support Guidelines, on Thurs., June 5, 2008, from 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. at the Indianapolis Marriott East. Commissioner Debbie Shook, Marion County, agreed to join them for the presentation.
7. Draft Family Law ADR Report. Loretta Oleksy, Family Court Project Manager, Division of State Court Administration, distributed the draft 2007 ADR Report. Committee members agreed an email should go to all judges and family court projects giving them notice when the report goes on line.
8. Support. Amber Njau explained the Child Support Bureau will stop automatically discontinuing withholding support when a child turns 21. In response to a question, she explained often monies were being paid past age 21, but since the support collection ended at ISETS, there was no way ISETS could get a payment to the obligee. There was also no way to pay on arrearages.

9. Next meeting dates.

a. Committee members agreed to: (1) Finish the social security discussion, (2) Review additional Venohr materials, and (3) Draft a survey of deviations from guidelines at the May meeting. They decided to conduct a public hearing based on the existing guidelines during the morning of the July meeting and draft in the afternoon. They also agreed to hold two, two-day meetings to draft guideline revisions in August and October.

b. Committee members agreed to meet on Friday, May 16, 2008; Friday, July 18, 2008; Thurs. and Friday, August 14-15, 2008; Thurs. and Friday, October 16-17, 2008; Friday, November 21, 2008 and Friday, January 23, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law